Drop Out Rate

3012. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a report compiled by Delhi University's Centre for Science Education and Communication on the sudden rise in drop out rate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken on the report's recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promotion in IRCC

3013. SHRI CHITRASEN SINKU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether information has been collected on Unstarred Question No. 2505 dated December, 9, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the future of SC/ST employees if IRCC is wound up; and

(d) the reasons for not absorbing as (c) above in National Highway Authoristies of India under the same Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The posts in the National Highways Authority of India are filled up on the basis of deputation/ selection for which employees of the IRCC are also considered.

[Translation]

Facilities to Soldiers

3014. SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the facilities and allowances being provided to soldiers after their recruitment and retirement are not adequate keeping in view their services;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to take steps for making improvement in it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) The facilities and allowances being provided to soldiers after their recruitment are considered adequate. In addition to their normal pay and allowances, the soldiers are given certain facilities such as free ration, canteen facilities and housing, electricity and water at subsidised rates. They are also entitled to Field or Modified Field Area Allowance, Counter insurgency allowance and High Altitude Allowance in certain specified areas. Soldiers are also given liberalised leave as compared to the civilian employees.

2. After their retirement, Soldiers are entitled to the pensionary benefits. They are also being provided reservations/concessions for employment in Government jobs, financial assistance for setting up of self-employment ventures, medical treatment in Military Hospitals, canteen facilities, priority quota for admission of children in professional institutions and acommodation in Sainik Aramgrah/holiday homes.

3. However, conditions have changed in certain respects since the existing allowance and facilities were made effective in 1986. The Fifth Pay Commission has examined these aspects and has given its recommendations. The Government have also decided to accept most of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission and have even improved upon the Commission's recommendations in some respects.

Oil Reserves

3015. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the States in the country where oil reserves are found and the quantum of oil therein; and

(b) the average quantum of oil extracted each month and the total quantum of oil extracted so far during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The proven oil reserves are found in the following States and in quantities indicated below :-